Every year I go to Nigeria and see the same saddening sights: unfinished construction, and a virtually nonexistent infrastructure. I see understaffed schools and frequent strikes that halt any academic progress for weeks on end. I see students who claim to be computer science majors, but yield blank stares after hearing the term “command line”. I bear witness to this disarray, but amidst these deplorable conditions, I see a nation teeming with potential.

I understand that it is the responsibility of the members of my generation, whether they reside in the United States or Nigeria, to capitalize on each and every opportunity resources like the World Wide Web yield to us. We are to be innovators, groundbreakers, problem-solvers because if we are not, if we fail, then more pain and suffering awaits our beloved homeland and other developing third-world countries. Failure means inconsistent sources of running water, ineffective healthcare, unreliable power sources and other crucial resources.

I acknowledge the privilege to be able to search any given topic on Google or YouTube and learn it on-demand. I understand that it is a privilege to be able to collaborate with someone across the globe in Abuja, Nigeria, through a myriad of channels and abuse or frivolous use of my privileges is almost an insult to some students in Nigeria, who must beseech teachers, pleading, “Uncle, I know you are currently teaching a class, but could you teach us a little?” in hopes of improving their bleak existences. With this knowledge in mind, I strive to maintain humility and gratitude as I avidly engage in my education. The pursuit of knowledge, albeit arduous at times, is relatively pleasurable because any discomfort I may encounter is negligible next to the struggle of a child soldier in Uganda or a child laborer in China.